Tom McAlpin has joined Virgin Cruises as CEO and will lead the organization’s management team. Prior to joining Virgin, McAlpin was president and CEO of The World, the largest privately owned residential yacht with 165 luxury residences. As CEO, McAlpin was responsible for leading the organization and managing the strategic direction of The World, including key assets and relevant functions such as customer service, guest satisfaction, sales and training to ensure best-in-class service delivery.

A veteran in the cruise line industry with more than 25 years of domestic and international experience in ship management and operations, McAlpin spent 14 years at Disney Cruise Line, most recently as president. He was responsible for Disney’s successful launch into the cruise industry and led its expansion efforts to add two additional ships to the fleet.

Prior to joining Disney, McAlpin was director of Corporate Planning and Analysis for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line/Admiral Cruises for eight years. He began his career with KPMG and also served as chief financial officer of CSB Leasing Company for three years.

McAlpin is a member of Florida State University’s College of Business Board of Governors; he has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida’s Rosen College of Hospitality and is a former member of their advisory board. He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance from Florida State University and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Miami.

An organization close to McAlpin’s heart is the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he was a National Board member from 2006-2012 and served as its national board chair in 2012. McAlpin became involved in the Make-A-Wish Foundation while at Disney, where he saw first-hand the impact of the foundation’s work. He uses his business skills to broaden the awareness of Make-A-Wish activities and continue the foundation’s growth.

McAlpin and his wife, Yvonne, live in Parkland, Fla., and they have two daughters.